

SENATE, No. 136

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senator LYNCH

1 AN ACT concerning campus security improvements at public and  
2 private institutions of higher education and supplementing Title  
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. As used in this act:

9 "Private institution of higher education" means independent colleges  
10 or universities incorporated and located in New Jersey, which by virtue  
11 of law or character or license, are nonprofit educational institutions  
12 authorized to grant academic degrees and which provide a level of  
13 education which is equivalent to the education provided by the State's  
14 public institutions of higher education as attested by the receipt of and  
15 continuation of regional accreditation by the Middle States Association  
16 of Colleges and Schools, and which are eligible to receive State aid  
17 under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States of  
18 America and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, but does not  
19 include any educational institution dedicated primarily to the education  
20 or training of ministers, priests, rabbis or other professional persons in  
21 the field of religion.

22 "Public institution of higher education" means Rutgers, The State  
23 University, the State colleges, the New Jersey Institute of Technology,  
24 the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the county  
25 colleges and any other public university or college now or hereinafter  
26 established or authorized by law."

27 "Student housing" means dormitories, student apartments, residence  
28 halls, and fraternity and sorority residences under the control of an  
29 institution of higher education.

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31 2. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, each public  
32 institution of higher education shall form a security committee to study  
33 and evaluate the safety and security of the institution's campus. The  
34 study shall include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of the overall  
35 security of the campus grounds and the security of the individual

1 buildings, structures and facilities required for the operation of the  
2 institution including student housing facilities. If the institution has  
3 more than one campus, the committee shall study and evaluate the  
4 security of all campuses.

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6 3. The governing body of the public institution shall, upon the  
7 recommendation of the institution's president, appoint the members of  
8 the security committee. The committee shall consist of nine members,  
9 three of whom shall be students enrolled in the institution, three of  
10 whom shall be faculty members at the institution, and three of whom  
11 shall be administrators at the institution. If the institution has more  
12 than one campus, the appointments to the security committee shall  
13 include representation from each campus. Each member shall be  
14 appointed to the committee for a term of two academic years except  
15 that of the members first appointed, one of the student members, one  
16 of the faculty members and one of the administrator members shall be  
17 appointed for a term of one year. Any vacancy in the membership of  
18 the committee shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner  
19 provided for the original appointment. No member of the committee  
20 may serve more than two successive terms in addition to any  
21 unexpired term to which he has been appointed.

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23 4. The committee shall hold at least two public hearings during  
24 each academic year to receive testimony from members of the  
25 academic community and the public on the issues of campus safety and  
26 security. The committee shall also solicit recommendations on safety  
27 improvements and enhancements which need to be made to the campus  
28 and its facilities. Upon the completion of the public hearings, the  
29 committee shall submit a report to the governing body of the  
30 institution which summarizes the safety and security concerns of the  
31 academic community and the public and which contains  
32 recommendations for security improvements to the campus and its  
33 buildings. The report shall be updated annually to reflect the  
34 testimony and recommendations received at the public hearings.

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36 5. Based upon the security committee's report, the governing body  
37 of the public institution shall annually prepare and submit a security  
38 plan to the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and  
39 Public Safety and to the municipal police department of the  
40 municipality in which the institution is located. The report shall  
41 outline the security improvements which the institution shall implement  
42 to address the safety concerns of the academic community and to  
43 increase the security of the campus and its facilities. The governing  
44 body shall update the plan annually to reflect the information and  
45 recommendations received by the institutions's security committee  
46 during the public hearing process. An institution which has more than

1 one campus shall submit its security plan to the municipal police  
2 department of each municipality in which a campus is located.

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4 6. A private institution of higher education shall annually prepare  
5 and submit a security plan to the New Jersey Commission on Higher  
6 Education. The plan shall evaluate the overall security of the  
7 institution's campus grounds and the security of the individual  
8 buildings, structures and facilities required for the operation of the  
9 institution including student housing facilities. The plan shall also  
10 outline the security improvements which the institution shall implement  
11 to address the safety concerns of the academic community and to  
12 increase the security of the campus and its facilities.

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14 7. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education shall annually  
15 prepare and submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report  
16 which outlines the campus security conditions at public institutions of  
17 higher education. The report shall detail the security improvements  
18 which need to be made at each institution, the cost of implementing  
19 the improvements, and recommendations concerning the funding of  
20 security improvement projects.

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22 8. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education may approve  
23 the allocation of funds available through the "Jobs, Education and  
24 Competitiveness Bond Act of 1988," P.L.1988, c.78, or which may  
25 become available through any other bond issues hereafter approved for  
26 higher education facilities, for security improvement projects at public  
27 and private institutions of higher education.

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29 9. The governing body of a public institution of higher education  
30 may impose a surcharge on student tuition bills to finance the cost of  
31 security improvements at the institution; however the tuition bill shall  
32 include a statement which itemizes the amount of funds spent on  
33 security improvements at the institution and the percentage of those  
34 funds derived from the tuition surcharge.

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36 10. The New Jersey Commission on Higher Education shall adopt,  
37 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
38 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the rules and regulations necessary to carry out  
39 the provisions of this act.

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41 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

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This bill requires each public institution of higher education to form a security committee to study and evaluate the safety and security of the institution's campus. The committee is to hold at least two public hearings during each academic year to receive testimony from members of the academic community and the public on the issues of campus safety and security. Upon the completion of the public hearings, the committee is to submit a report to the governing body of the institution which summarizes the safety and security concerns of the academic community and contains recommendations for security improvements to the campus and its buildings.

The bill further provides that based upon the security committee's report, the governing body of the public institution shall annually prepare and submit a security plan to the Division of State Police and to the municipal police department of the municipality in which the institution is located. The report shall outline the security improvements which the institution plans to implement to increase the security of the campus and its facilities.

The bill also directs each private institution of higher education annually to prepare and submit a security plan to the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education. The plan is to evaluate the safety and security of the institution's campus and outline the improvements which the institution shall implement to increase campus security.

Finally, the bill directs the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education annually to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report which details campus security conditions at the public institutions of higher education, the security improvements which need to be made at the institutions, the cost of implementing the improvements, and recommendations concerning the funding of security improvement projects.

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Requires institutions of higher education to develop campus security plans.